

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action that issued July 9, 2004. In light of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and removal of the grounds for rejection are respectfully requested.

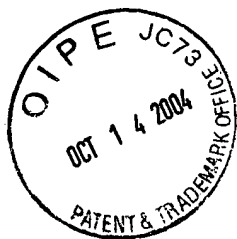
In the Office Action, Claims 1-9 and 14-16 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1-6, 8-12, and 17-18 of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/732,965. In response, it is respectfully submitted that U.S. Patent Application No. 09/732,965 has a filing date of December 8, 2000 while the currently pending patent application has a filing date of December 5, 2000. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that U.S. Patent Application No. 09/732,965 is not prior art to the currently pending patent application and accordingly a rejection under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting is not proper. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant has canceled Claims 6-9, 14-16, and 21 without prejudice and requests allowance and issuance of allowable Claims 1-5, 10-13, and 17-20.

This amendment places the instant application in condition for immediate allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Neem' Chapc